Message Text

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02
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CONFIDENTIAL STATE 073593
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:PGOV, PFOR, MILI, GE, WB, EB, US, UK, FR, GW
SUBJECT:TRAVEL POLICY IN GDR AND IN BERLIN: DOCUMENTATION FOR US EMBASSY DEPENDENTS UNDER 14 YEARS OF AGE
REF: BERLIN 5459
1. PROBLEM OF DAILY TRAVEL BY DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF EMBASSY STAFF MEMBERS HAS BEEN MATTER OF CONCERN TO DEPARTMENT SINCE PLANNING FOR EMBASSY BERLIN COMMENCED THREE YEARS AGO. DEPARTMENT IS PARTICULARLY APPRECIATIVE OF REFTEL SINCE IT SETS FORTH PRACTICES WHICH EMBASSY IS FOLLOWING.
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2. DEPARTMENT AGREES WITH EMBASSY THAT SATISFACTORY

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SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM WOULD BE ISSUANCE BY GDR OF APPROPRIATE DOCUMENTATION FOR CHILDREN. POST IS AUTHORIZED TO EXPLORE THIS POSSIBILITY WITH FONOFF. ISSUANCE OF DOCUMENT BY EMBASSY IS A DISTINCTLY LESS DESIRABLE SOLUTION, AND ONE WHICH DEPARTMENT WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER ONLY AFTER FIRM REJECTION OF FIRST OPTION BY GDR.

- 3. IN MAKING PRESENTATION TO GDR FONOFF, EMBASSY SHOULD KEEP IN MIND FACT THAT WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO GRANT RECIPROCAL TREATMENT FOR CHILDREN OF GDR STAFF MEMBERS HERE. THIS HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECT BETWEEN DEPARTMENT AND GDR EMBASSY, WHICH PROFESSES (AS DID GDR NEGOTIATORS DURING JULY, 1974 DISCUSSIONS) NOT TO UNDERSTAND WHY US DOES NOT HAVE FORM OF DOCUMENTATION FOR CHILDREN OF DIPLOMATS AS WELL AS FOR NON-DIPLOMATIC (WHITE LIST) PERSONNEL AND THEIR DEPENDENTS. SHOULD GDR RAISE THIS SUBJECT, EMBASSY SHOULD POINT OUT THAT US DOES NOT HAVE A SYSTEM OF NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION CARDS. AND THAT THERE IS THEREFORE NO NEED FOR RECIPROCITY. IN BERLIN, ON OTHER HAND. IT IS PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT IT IS IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH PARTIES THAT AMERICAN CHILDREN HAVE EASY ACCESS TO SCHOOL.
- 4. IN AUTHORIZING APPROACH DIRECTLY TO GDR GOVERNMENT, DEPARTMENT IS AWARE THAT POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT EAST GERMANS MAY OFFER TO FURNISH DOCUMENTATION THAT MIGHT INCLUDE UNACCEPTABLE LANGUAGE, E.G. REFERRING TO EAST BERLIN AS CAPITAL OF COUNTRY. EMBASSY SHOULD SEEK DEPARTMENT CONCURRENCE BEFORE AGREEING TO ANY IDENTIFICATION PROPOSED BY GDR. KISSINGER

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To: BERLIN

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